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January 20, 1981

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Harold Denton
Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7920 Norfolk Ave.
Bethesda, MD

Dear Mr. Denton:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us yesterday. It was especially considerate of you to give us so much of your time when we were so late. Our understanding of the outcome of the meeting is as follows:

- 1) You instructed Mr. Sells to apply the guidelines recommended in the "Report of the Siting Policy Task Force" to the Limerick nuclear power plant site. Mr. Sells will give us the results of this exercise.
- 2) You stated that it is your personal belief that the planned generic proceeding to address the generic question of the operation of nuclear reactors in areas of high population density should include public hearings in the New York, Chicago and Philadelphia areas. You stated that you would so recommend to the Commission, and that you would send us a letter confirming the above.

We would like to point out that the NRC staff has been ordered by the Commission to "prepare, as a matter of high priority a paper setting forth options for addressing this generic issue. We hope that your recommendation will find its way into this paper.

We are grateful for your advice about intervening in the operating license case. We do have a question remaining in this regard. We have heard that PECO's application for an operating license will not be accepted until after the so-called "Risk Assessment Study" is completed. We would like to know whether

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this is so; and we would like to know how long, realistically, you expect it to be before hearings to take testimony on substantive issues in the operating license case are in fact held; and how long it will be before any decision is reached in the matter.

For your information, we would like to re-state our position on the Limerick nuclear power plant:

- 1) There are alternative means of insuring adequate electricity for the PECO service area, and replacing the use of imported oil, which would be far less expensive to the energy consumer.
- 2) Human understanding of the probability of massively destructive accidents resulting from nuclear power plant operation is still inadequate for there to be reasonable assurances of safety to the surrounding population. Studies purporting to show otherwise are products of wishful thinking. No-one knows how to assign probabilities to many of the possibly dangerous events which can happen at nuclear power plants. We can, however, be certain that the population near Limerick is high, and that prompt evacuation of the area, and management of food and water contamination, is impossible. PECO's claims to the contrary are fraudulent.
- 3) The only reason Limerick is being built is because PECO can use the plant to justify enormous rate increases, as it is already doing.
- 4) The NRC should halt construction of Limerick immediately, inasmuch as the question of allowing nuclear plants to operate in areas of high population density is now officially open. It is contrary to common sense to permit the money of PECO ratepayers, most of whom have no surplus income, to be used for construction of a plant which may never be allowed to operate.

We look forward to receiving your letter confirming the commitments you have made. We hope that all of our future dealings can be as friendly and constructive as yesterday's meeting.

Very truly yours,

Barton Davis, for the below
Mary Ellen Smith
Ming McGowan
Lucille Clarkson